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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,631	07/24/2003	Noriyuki Ito	122.1444D	8072
21171	7590	08/03/2005		EXAMINER
STAAS & HALSEY LLP				LIN, SUN J
SUITE 700				
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.				
WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2825	

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SOF

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/625,631	ITO ET AL.	
	Examiner Sun J. Lin	Art Unit 2825	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 14 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/811,772.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/24/03</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to application 10/625,631 filed on 07/24/2003. Claims 1 – 13 and Claims 16 – 27 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 14 and 15 remain pending in the application.

Specification Objections

2. The specification is objected to because of following informalities:

Page 6, line 2, change "date" to —data—.

Page 9, line 32, change "S13" to —S14—.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims listed below are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 14, line 3, before "program" insert —placement and wiring processing—.

Claim 14, line 4, before "placement" delete —said—.

Claim 14, line 4, before "program" insert —placement and wiring processing—.

Claim 15, line 2, change "said program" to —a placement and wiring processing program—.

Claim 15, line 4, before "placement" delete —said—.

Claim 15, line 4, before "program" insert —placement and wiring processing—.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,050,091 to Rubin.

6. As to Claim 14, Rubin shows and discloses the following subject matter:

- A method of controlling (i.e., processing) connectivity (i.e., wiring) and (polygon) placement of electrical circuits while modifying the design of such circuits – [col. 1, line 17 – 21; col. 2, line 1 – 21];
- Reading out a placement and wiring processing program from a mass storage unit 604 (i.e., program storage unit) – [Fig. 6];
- Copying said read out placement and wiring processing program on main memory 606 (i.e., hard drive or RAM – a storage unit) to be retrieved by a central processor 607 – [Fig. 6];
- Executing placement and wiring processing by a control system 612 based on said placement and wiring processing program stored in the main memory 606.

7. As to Claim 15, Rubin shows and discloses the following subject matter:

- A method of controlling (i.e., processing) connectivity (i.e., wiring) and (polygon) placement of electrical circuits while modifying the design of such circuits – [col. 1, line 17 – 21; col. 2, line 1 – 21];
- Storing execution history information associated with a placement and wiring processing program in a database 615 when said placement and wiring processing program is executed – [Fig. 6; col. 4, line 18 – 20, line 39 – 41]; database change means 615 for updating database 615 – [Fig. 6; col. 6, line 26 – 30]; Notice that execution history information is stored in database 615;
- Checking placement and wiring processing operated through said placement and wiring processing program based on (execution history) information stored in the database 615 – [Fig. 6; col. 6, line 6, line 29 – 30].

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Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sun J Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272 - 1899. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30AM - 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S Smith can be reached on (571) 272 - 1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sun James Lin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2825
July 31, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sun James Lin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Sun" and "Lin" being more distinct than "James". There is a small checkmark or mark above the "i" in "Lin".